

Mihil Munchance,

H I S

Discouerie of the Art of Cheating in false Dyce
play, and other vnlawfull games:

With a Discourse of the Figging Craft: And also
of diuers new deuises of Cosenages practi-
sed commonly at Fayres and Markets: With
many deceitfull practises vsed by bad
and lewd Women.

Neuer before Published.

The names of false Dyce.

- 1 A bale of bard sincke Dewces.
- 2 A bale of flat sincke Dewces.
- 3 A bale of flat sice Aces.
- 4 A bale of bard sice Aces.
- 5 A bale of bard Cater Treas.
- 6 A bale of flat Cater Treas.
- 7 A bale of Fullans of the best making.
- 8 A bale of light Grauiers.
- 9 A bale of Langrets contrary to the vantage.
- 10 A bale of Gordes with as many high men as
low men for Passage.
- 11 A bale of Demies.
- 12 A bale of long Dyce for euen and odde.
- 13 A bale of Bristels.
- 14 A bale of direct contraries.

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sold by *William Iones* dwelling at the signe of
the Gunne, neere Holburne Conduit.

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THE MARYLAND

IN THE YEAR 1797

BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

IN SENATE

APPROVED

THE 17TH DAY OF MARCH 1797

IN SENATE

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TO ALL THE CHIEFE CHEA-
tors in the gamning houses, as Bedlam, Coleman-
street, Morefields, Northhouse, Charterhouse, Shoo-
lane, Westminster & all others, *Mihil Mumchance*
sendeth greeting, and withall wisheth confusion
to your damnable profession.



His kind fauour I require in curtesie, that
you driue not *Mihil Mumchance* from
your houses with your detestable swea-
ring: nor to ouerload him with the
burthen of so many oathes, as vsuallie
you haue done before time: which
fault if you commit, hee protestes by his father Belsabub,
Prince of darkenes, Lord of vnbeliese, and Gouvernour
of the vniuerfall Sinagogue of your carelesse crew: Next
time when you come to the board, and venture monie on
his wodden Skriene, to send you pennilesse away, making
the diuell to daunce in the bottome of your purses, and to
turne your Angels out of their houses like bad tennants:
Therefore be aduised and storne not at this inuectiue of
Mihil Mumchance, but professe true friendship to him &
to the rest of his brethre, namely: *Noum, Hassard, & Swift*
foot passage: whose diligent seruants if you intend to bee,
imploy your daylie studie in his seruice, & practise all the
articles of his vnthristie Parliament, wherby he may stand
your best friend, & graunt you the benefit of Doctor *Sto-
ries* Tryangle, where you may shake your heeles through
a hempen window, & looke sea Crabs towards Pancridge
Church. Thus leauing you to your emptie purses, hard
lodgings, and cold dinners, I bequeath you to a miserable
life.

Yours in all good fellowship till pouertie, and then I
leauelyou, Mihil Mumchance.



To the Reader.



*W*ish all Gentlemen that haue their Patrimonyes newly come into their handes, & all others whose mindes be giuen to play, & are ignorant what deceite is vsed in euerie place both at Dice and Cardes, a little to spend their time in reading this Pamphlet, published for their good, lest in few daies they come farther behinde, than all the trauailes of their latter yeres can ouertake againe: I can neither forbear, either for the loue and zeale I beare to honest minded men, nor the hatred I protest against all cheating Gamsters. I therefore I purpose to let you understand some part of the sleights & falshoods that are commonlie practised at Dice and Cardes: opening and reuealing the thinge, not so that I would learne you to put them in use, but to discribe and lay open the wicked snares, and hookes that are laid to picke Gentlemens purses, and to turne their riche reuenewes into poore penurie: Therefore with patience listen to me a while.





MIHIL MVMCHANCE,
His discouery of the
Arte of Cheating, or playing of
false Dice.



THERE is no man I am sure that hath experience of the world, and by reading of Histories conferreth our time to the dayes of our Elders: but will easily graunt that as time hath growne, & gathered increase by running: So wit first planted in a seew, hath in time taken so many rootes, that in euery corner y^e may finde new branches budding & issuing from the same, for p^{ro}uise whereof, to speake of one thing amongst many that at this time may serue our purpose: Although the Greeke and Latine Histories bee full of Noble examples of good and vertuous Princes, that bitterly banished and exiled Dicing out of their Seignories & Countreies, or at least held them as infamed persons: yet find I not that in those our forefathers daies, any of the like flights & craftie deceits were practised in play, as now we is common in euery corner: yea & he is named Hodge Setter, whose surname witnesseth what opinion men hath of him, though fortie yeares agoe he was thought p^{er}celes in crafty play, and had as they say neither mate nor fellow, yet now of late hee is so farre behinde some
B younger

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That is
Smith-
field.

younger men in that knowledge, that I my selfe do know more than twenty that can make him a foole, and scarcely will suffer him to haue a name in that facultie. It is not yet fiftie yeeres agoe, since all that sought their liuing that way, as they were few in number, scarcely so many as were able to mainetaine a fray in Ruffins Hall, yet were they all of Hodge Setters estate, the next doore to beggery: But now such is the miserie of our time, and such the licentious outrage of idle misgouerned persons, that onely of Dicers, her Maiestie might haue an Armie sufficient to bidde the king of Spaine a Battail; and the greatest number of them are so richly apparrelled, and their purses so full of money that they shame not to insinuate themselves into the company of very good Gentlemen.

That is
Dicing.

And hereof you may right well assure your selues, if their gaine were not exceeding great, it were not possible by the onely helpe thereof to leade so sumptuous a life as they doe, shining like blazing starres in their apparrell, by night banquetting with Strumpets, by day spoyling Gentlemen of their inheritance, and to speake all at once, like as all good and liberall Sciences had a rude beginning, and by the industry of good men, being augmented, by little and little, at last grewe to a iust perfection; So this detestable priuy robbery, from a few deceitfull Rules, is in few yeeres growne to the body of an Art, and hath his peculiar termes, and thereof are as great a multitude applyed to it, as hath Grammer, or Lodgicke, or any other of the approued Sciences: And to speake truth, there is a Consort of these Caterpillers remayning about this Towne (whose names I could declare, but that I rather wish their amendment) that doe daily study to finde out new deceits in Cheting, with as great labour and wit-breaking, as the Diuines or Astrologians.

Yet

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Yet let not this seeme strange to you, although this new found studdie is not commonly knowne; for this facultie of cheating hath one condition of iuggling, that if the sleight be once discovered, then marde is all the market.

The first pzecept therof is to be as secret in working, as hee that keepeth a man companie from London to Maidenhead, and makes good cheare by the way, to the end in the thicket to turne his face byward, and cast a Meauers knot on both his thumbes behind him, & they to the intent that euer after in all companies they may talke more familiarly in apearance, and yet so couertly indeede that their purpose may in no wise bee espied; they call their Arte by a newe found name as cheating, themselves Cheatozs, and the dice Cheters, borrowing the terme from among our Lawyers, with who all such casualls as fall to the Lord at the holding of his lētes, as waifes, straies and such like be called Chetes, and are accustomably said to be elcheted to the Lordes vse: yet wil I not say that they haue any affinity with our men of Law, nor with those that be honest, but with such as vse to play on both handes, they haue a great league: so haue they also with all kinde of people, that from a good order of ciuilitie, are fallen and resoluēd as it were from the hardinesse of vertuous liuing, to the softnesse of vncarefull tolensse, and gaine full deceit: for gain and ease be the only markes that Chetozs shoute at: But by what right or honest meanes they might compass it, that neuer commeth in question amongst them.

And hereof it riseth that like as Law when the time is truely considered, significth an ordinance of good men established for the common wealth, to repressse all vicious liuing, so these dicing Chetozs, turneth the Cat in the pan, giuing to diuers vile patching shifts, an honest

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and good title, calling it by the name of a Law: because by a multitude of hatefull rules, a multitude of dregges and drasse as it were of learning, gouerne and rule their idle bodies to the destruction of many good labouring people, and this is the cause that diuers craftie shifts deuised only for guile & deceit, hold by the name of a Law, ordained as yee know to maintaine plaine dealing.

Thus giue they their owne countenance the name of Cheating law: so do they other termes, as sacking law, high law, and sigging law and such like: therefore note this, that sacking law signifyeth w'horedome, high law, robbery, sigging law, picke purse craft: But now to the purpose, some will question what haue Cheaters to doe with w'hores and th'eres: to whom I must answer as much as with their intire friends, for they hold all of one corporation: for the first and originall ground of Cheating, is a counterfet countenance in all thinges, a studdy to seeme to be that which they are not: And because no great deceit can be wrought, but w'hore specis all trust goeth before: Therefore the Cheator w'hen he pitcheth his hay to purchase his profit, enforceth all his wits to winne credit and opinion of honesty & byrightnes, who hath a greater outward shew of simplicitie then the picke purse: or what woman will seeme so seruient in loue as will the common Harlot: so as I tolde you before, the foundation of all these sorte of people is nothing but mere dissimulation, for as they spring all from one roote, so tend they all to one end, idly to liue by spoile, deuouring the fruite of other mens labours: all the difference betwene them is their actions, that leade them to their ends, and their liues finall conclusion after some base manner: But to the purpose, every one keepeth as great Scholes in their own facultie as the Cheators do, & if I should openly discourse of euery wrinkle they

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they haue to couer and worke deceit withall, I should speake of moze sundry quainte conuauiances then there be rockes in Milford Hauen, to defend the Ships from rage of winde and weather.

But I will first goe forwarde with that I haue in hand, and by the way as occasion shall serue, so touch the rest, that yee may see their workmanship as it were a farre off, more than halfe a kenning.

The Cheator for the most part neuer receaueth scholar, to whome he will discouer the secrets of his Arte, but to such a one as before time hee hath had from some wealth and plenty of thinges, made so bare, & brought to such miserie, that he will refuse no labour, nor leaue no stone vnturned to picke vp a penning vnderneath, and this he doth not but vpon great skill: for like as it is an old Proverbe and true, that he must needs goe whome the Diuell driueth: so is there no such Diuell to force a man to extreame refuge as is necessitie & want, especially where abundance before time hath proceeded.

Therefore the Cheator vsing necessitie for a great part of perswasion, when he hath sucked this needy companion sodrie, that there remaineth no hope to presse any drop of farther gaine from him, taketh some occasion to shew him a glimpse of his facultie, and if happily he finde him Eagle eyed, and diligent to marke, anone shapeth him in such a fashion, as that he will raise a new gaine by him, and withall, somewhat releue his vrgent pouerty: Then walking aside into some solitary place, hee maketh the first way to his purpose after this, or such like manner.

I am sure (quoth the Cheator) it is not yet out of your remembrance, how late it is since first you fell into my company, and how great losse yee had at play, and how little profit rebounded vnto me: (when indeed, hee was the principall cause of his vndowing) neyther can

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ye forget howe friendly I haue vsed you, and made all thinges I haue had rather common vnto vs both, than priuate to my selfe, and now I perceane of a youthfull wantonnes, and as it were a childish oversight, ye haue sobainely brought your selfe, so sarre vnder the hatches and are so shaken with lauiſh expence, that you cannot finde the way to rise againe & beare any saile amongst men, as heretofore you haue done: which thing when I deeply consider with my selfe, I cannot chuse but lament much your negligence, and moze the harme that is like to ensue vpon it.

For first your friends being as I haue heard many in number, and all of worship, shall conceane such inward grieſe of your vniustices, that not one will vouchsafe a gentle plaster to quench the malice of this fretting corrosion, that penury hath applyed: and I againe because it was my hap to haue you in my company, shall be counted the cause of your vndoing, and slandered for taking a few feathers out of the nest, when others haue stolne the birdes befoze: for which causes, and especially to help you to maintayne your selfe like a Gentleman, as hetherto of your selfe you haue bene able: I can bee content to put you in a good way: so as treading the steps that I shall appoint you, you shall neyther need to ruine to your friends for succour, and all men shall bee glad to vse you for a companion: But wist I that I should find you fraudulent in any point, & void of fidelity and secretnesse (some sparkes whereof I haue noted in your nature) assure your selfe that I would neuer make you priuy to the matter, but glue you ouer to your own provision, perchance to end your life with infamie, and wretchednes.

The youngman that flowed late in plenty and pleasures, being now pinched to the quicke for lacke of all things, humbled himselfe presently to bee wholly at the
Chea:

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Cheators direction, and gaue him a thousand thanks for his great kindnesse.

Then forth goeth the Cheator, and further saies: Though your experience in the world bee not so great as mine yet am I sure you see, that no man is able to liue an honest man vnlesse hee haue some priuy way to help himselve with all, moze than the world is witnesse of.

Thinke you that some Landlords could doe as they do, if in this hard world they should maintaine so great a port only vpon their rents? thinke you that Lawyers could be such purchasers if their plects were short? suppose yee that Offices would be so dearely bought, & the buyers so soone enriched if they counted not pillage an honest point of purchase? could Marchants without lies, and false making their waiers, and selling them by a crooked light to deccaue the Chapman in the thrid or colour, growe so soone rich, and buy Barrons possessions to make all their posteritie gentlemen? what will yee moze? who hath not some ankerward way to helpe himselve, but followeth his nose (as they say all waies straight forward) may well hold by the head for a yeare or two, but the third he must sinke, and gether the wind into beggers hauens: Therefore mine aduise shall bee, that you beat your wits, and spare not to breake your braines alwaies to saue and help one. Your acquaintance I know is great amongst your countrymen, such as be rich and full of money: neuerthelesse moze simple then that they know what good may be done in play, & better it is that each of them smart a little, then you to liue in want: Therefore seeke them out busilie, at their lodgings, but alwaies beare them in hand, that yee meet them by chance: so will it not bee a hard thing to call them into your company, and in some one Tauerne or other to take part of a supper, and hauing them once
within

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within the doores, it shall geue harde but they shall haue a blow at one pastime or other that shall lighten theyr purses home ward, my self will lend you money to keepe them company, and neuerthelesse make you partaker of the gaine: And to the end you shall not be ignorant by what meanes I will compass the matter, I will teach you a lesson worthy the learning.

Then drawing from his bosome a great bagge of Dyce, first the Cheator teacheth him to knowe a Langret, which is a Dye that simple men hath seldome or neuer heard of, but often seene to theyr cost: Nowe queth the Cheator to this young Pouice, here is a well fauored Dye, that seemeth good and square, yet is it forged longer vppen the Cater and Trea than any other way, and therefore it helde the name of a Langret: Such be also called Bard Catertreas, because commonly the longer end will of his owne sway drawe downwards, and turne vp to the eye, Sice, Sinke, Dewce or Ace, the principall vse of them is at Nouum: For so long as a payre of Bard Catertreas be walking on the Word, so long can ye not cast neither five nor nine, vlesse it be by great chance that the roughnes of the table or some other slip force them to stay and runne against theyr kinde, for without Cater trea, ye know that five or nine can neuer come.

But then some will question, that by this reason hee that hath the first Dye is like alwayes to strip and rob all the Table about: To whom I thus answere, that their must be a helpe, and for that purpose there must be ready at hand an eode Dye called a flat Cater trea, and no other number for graunting the Trea and Cater tre alwayes vppen the one Dye, then is there no chance vppen the other Dye but may serue to make five or nine, and so cast forth and lose all.

Therefore (sayth the Cheator) marke well your flat, and learne to knowe him surely when hee runneth on the Word

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Word, and whilst he is abroad, see ye that you cast not at much, and keeping this order to auoyd suspicion, because I am knowne for a gamster, ye shall see me bzing all the gaine into your hands.

But now to shewe you what shift wee haue to bzing the Flat in and out. which is a iolly cunning property called Foysting: the which is nothing els but a sleight to carry easily within the hand, as often as the Foyster list, so that when either hee or his partner shall cast the Dyce, the Flat comes not abroade, till he hath made a great hande, and wone as much as him listeth: otherwise the Flat is euer one, vnlesse at selwe times vppon purpose he suffer the silly soules to cast in a hand or two to giue them courage to continue the play, and liue in hope of winning.

These thinges I knowe seemeth very strange to the simple, and as yet cannot sinke into theyr bzaines, how a man may carry so many Dyce in one hand, and chopp and change them so often and neuer be espied: So Juglers conuayance seemeth to errede the compasse of reason, till ye know the feat, but what is it that labor ouercommeth not? To foyst finely and reddily, and with the same hande to tell money to and fro is a thing hardly learned, and asketh a bold spirite and long experience, though it be one of the first hee learneth: But now to returne to the purpose, if happily this young scholler haue not so ready and skilfull an eye to discern the Flat at euery time it is foysted in (for vse makes masteries as well in this as in other things) then partly to helpe this ignorance withall, and partly to teach this yong Cocke to crow after the Cheators kinde, the old Cole instructeth the yong Pouce in this manner.

Ye knowe that this outrageous swearing and quarrelling that some vse in play, giueth occasion to many to forbear it, that els would aduenture much money at it.

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for this we haue a deuice amongst vs, that we had rather giue place to a wrong, than wee woulde cause the play by strife to breake off and the company to depart. Neyther haue we any oaths in vse but lightly these: Of honesty, of troth, by saint Martin, which when wee vse them affirmatiuely, we meane alwaies directly the contrary: As for example, if happily I say vnto you when the Dyce cometh into your handes, of honesty cast at all, my meaning is that ye shall cast at the table, or els at very little: If when a thing is offered in payn I sweare by saint Martin I thinke it fine golde, then meane I the contrarie, that it is but copper: And like as it is an olde gentle prouerbe, let losers haue theyr words, so by the way take forth this lesson, euer to the gentlest to the silly soles, and creepe if yee can into theyr very bosomes, for harder it is to holde them sure when you haue them, than for the first time to take them vp: for yong wits are so light and wauering, that they require great trauel to make them dance alwaies after one pipe: But to follow that we haue in hande, be they yong, be they olde, that fall into our handes and are ignozant of our Art, we call them all by the name of a Cosen, seeming to make as much of them as if they were of our owne kindred.

The greatest wisdome of our facultie resteth in this point, diligently to foresæ to make the Cosen sweate, that is to haue a will to keepe play and company, and alwayes beware that wee cause him not smoake, least that hauing any feele or sauour of guile intended against him, he slipp the collar as it were a hound, and so shake vs off for euer. And when soeuer wee take vp a Cosen, to bee sure as nere as wee can, to knowe afore hand what store of bit he hath in his buy, that is what money he hath in his purse, and whether it be in great coggs or small, that is gold or siluer, and at what game
be

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he wil soonest scope, that we may feed him in his owne humoꝝ, and haue toles ready foꝝ him; foꝝ thousands there be that will not play a groat at Nouum, and yet will lose a hundred pound at Hazard: and he that will not scope a bodkin at Dyce, perchance will spend Gods scope at Cards: therefore you must be provided euery way, and generally foꝝ your fine Cheates, therefore acquaint your selfe with Dyce makers that worke secretly in corners where no man may find them but their familiar friends (of whom you must be one) and let them make you a bale oꝝ two of Squares, of sundry sizes, some lesse, some more, to throw into the first play, till you perceiue what your company is: Then haue in a readines to be foysted in when time shall require your fine Cheates, and be sure you haue Bard sincke Dewces, and Flat sincke Dewces: a bale of Bard sicce Aces, and Flat sicce Aces: a bale of Bard Cater tres, and Flat Cater tres: the aduantage thereof is all of the one side and consisteth in the foꝝging.

Provide also a bale oꝝ two of Fullans, foꝝ they haue great vse at the Hazard, and though they be square outward, yet being kept within at the corner with white lead and other ponderous matter, minister as great an aduantage as any of the rest. We must be also furnished with High men and Low men foꝝ a passage, yee and a long Dye foꝝ even and odde, is good to strike a stroake withall foꝝ a Crowne oꝝ two, oꝝ the price of a Dinner. As foꝝ Goards and Britell Dyce, be now to grosse a practise to bee put in vse: There bee light Grauiers, Demies and Contraries of all sorts foꝝged cleane against the apparant vantage, which haue especiall and sundry vses: but this is now sufficient at this time to put you in a readines what toles yee must prepare to make you a workeman: Next I will instruct you of the seuerall vses of them all.

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And therefore beare this lesson still in your minds, that when five squares onely bee stirring, there rests a great helpe in cogging, that is when the vnder Dye falleth dead by the waight of his selow, which you must cast leuell out of your hande without turning them, so that if fire be my chance, and ten yours, grant that vpon the Dye I cogge, & keepe alwaies an Ace, Dewce or Trea, I may perhaps cast fire, but neuer ten: Also there be diuers kindes of cogging, but of all other the Spanish cogge beares the bell, and seldome rayseth any suspicion.

This cheating Lector, being no soner ended by the old Cheator, but the young Ponice thinkes himselfe so ripely instructed: that though he be not yet able to deceaue and beguile others: yet he supposeth himselfe sufficiently armed against all falshood, that might bee wrought to bring him to the Cheators trappe, and little seeth he howe many other endes remayne, howe many points there be in the Cheators slippery Science, that the quickest wits, though neuer so capable in conceit, shall not be skillfull enough to liue by that faculty perchance in five or six yeares practise.

Yet for all this bee there deeper reaches to lift a man out of his Saddle, and ridde him of his money, than I haue already opened and this which I haue spoken of is but a warning, and as it were the shaking of a rod to a yong boy to feare him from places of perill. Ali that I haue tolde you as yet, or that which I am minded to tell you, agreeth not to the purpose to make you skillfull in the Cheators occupation; for as soone would I teach you the next way to Tyburne, as to learne you the practise of it: Truly my meaning is, to make you see as far into theyr deceipts, as a Cobler should into a Tanners Faculty, to know whether his Leather be well lickored or wo:kemanly dyest or no, and like as I would not
with

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With a Cöbler to become a Currier, lest that two occupations ioyning together in one, might perhaps make a lewd London medley in our shoes, the one bling falsehood in working, the other facing and lying in uttering: So seeke I to auoyd that yong gentlemen and gallants (in whome a little honest moderate play is tollerable) should become Cheatozs, and so be at defiance with all honestie.

For there be some new nurtured Pouices receiued into the Colledge of these double dealers, that in short time become so good scholless that they knowe readily they flattes and barres at the first sight, as though they had bene snappers with the old Cheatoz seauen yeares together; and haue learned to verse and lay in the reason sufficiently to make the Cosen stöpe all the cogs in his buy.

But then if some one of these young Chetozs ware slowe in seeking out Cosens, and be proude of his newe thrist, hauing so good a passage to recouer his olde losses by the snap of the case: then the Master of the Art secretly calleth to him another of the same trade, for the most part a man that might be warden of his company and talketh with him after this manner.

Here is a young man (quoth he) if you knowe him, that hath bene one of the swætest Cosens aline, so long as he was able to make a groat, but nowe at the last I know not how hee came by it, but he hath gotten some knowledge, and talkes of a great deale more than hee can doe indeede: Harry a Langret hee knoweth reasonable well, and that is all his skill: I make much of him all this month, because he hath great acquaintance with men of the Countrey, and especially with the Clothiers of the West parts, and at the beginning when he first entred into the trade, would euerie day fill the case full of iolly fatte Cosens, and although he had no

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great skill to worke any feate himselfe, yet did I vse him alwaies so kindly, that I gaue him his whole snap to the end he should be painefull and diligent to take vp Cosens and bring them to the blowe: But now he is waken so proud of his gaine because he hath gotten a siluer chaine double gilt with a sute of fine apparrell, & some stoe of bit in his buy, that I cannot get him to go about any thing: therefore take some paines your selfe (sayth he) and bring some of your owne Cosens home or els let all alone for me: for you see that nothing mars him, but that he is too fat, and might we make him once leane again (as he was within this month) then should we see the hungry whoresen trudge, and there should not a Cosen be stirring, but he would wind him straight.

Therefore when our fraternity meet again, come you in like a stranger, & ye shal see him take you vp roundly: If ye lack Contraries to crossebyte him withall, I shall lend you a payre of the same Ale his cheates be off, and vpon this conclusion these two companions departed.

Such great deceit is vsed amongst them, that one false knaue cannot be content to be true to his fellow, though they conspire to robbe all other men. The reason is, in that their Science is grounded vpon nothing but Cosenage, and therefore they cannot worke contrary to their profession. May they be so like themselves, that when all other deceits faile, looke which of them in play gets any stoe of money into his hands, hee will euery foote as he draweth a hand, be figging more or lesse, and rather than faile cram it in some priuy place: but when they fall to deuision of the gaine, and the mony that the Cosen hath lost is not forth coming, nor will be confessed amongst them. it is a world to heare what rule they make, impeaching one another of dishonesty as if there were any honesty to be found in Cheatores.

What should I speake of swearing and staring, for

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if they were as liberall of almes as they be of oaths, they should be continually haunted with beggars. But these stormes neuer fall but in secreete counsels amongst themselves, and then peradventure the stronger part will strippe the weaker of his cleathes, rather then he should goe away with the stuffe. Therefore it is a hard thing for any young Gentleman that hath lost his money at play, to recouer it againe where such company vseth: For if there cannot be found one faithfull couple in the whole band, how may a stranger hope to win an unfained friend amongst them, which is a harder thing than to find a Wolfe in England, or a venemous serpent in Ireland. And be well assured Gentlemen that all the friendly entertainment you shall finde amongst them, is for no other ende but to perswade you to play, and thereby to bryede your great losse if not altogether your vndering.

Therefore vtterly forbear to hazard any thing at Dyce, and liue in doubt & suspicion of cheating where soeuer you play (vnlesse you know your company very well:) For the contagion of cheating is nowe growne so vniuersall, that they swarme in every quarter, and therefore ye cannot be in safetie, vnlesse ye shun the company of such altogether.

But nowe because my discourse at the first matched Dyce and Cardes together like a couple of friends that drate both in a yoke, I will therefore disclose as much deceit vsed at Cardes as Dyce, for I woulde not give a point to chosse which of them is the better, for they be as such a slight in shuffling and sorting of the Cardes, that play at what game ye will, all is lost aforehand: For if two bee confederate together to beguile the third, the thing is compassed with more ease, than by one being alone, yet there are many wayes whereby you may be deceaued.

Primero

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Primero nowe as it hath most ble, so is there much deceit in it, some play vpon the pycke; some pinch the cards pziuely with theyr nayles; some turne by the corners; some marke them with fine spottes of inke; some there be that trauell into Spaine and into Italic, to learne fine trickes and quaint conuayances at the Cards, and return home and winne much ..ioney with them here in england, but yet at last they are still ouer-reached by some fine wits that deuise new flights here at home.

At Trumpe, Saunt, and such other like games, cutting at the nicke is a great aduantage, so is cutting by bumcard finely vnder and ou r, stealing the stocke of the discarded cardes: At Decay they drawe twenty hands together, and play all vppon assurance when to winne or lose. Other helpes I haue heard of besides, as to set the Cosen vpon the bench with a great looking glasse behinde him on the wall, wherein the Cheatoz may alwaies see what cards he hath in his hand: Sometimes they worke by signs made by some of the lookers on, whereof me thinkes this one amongst the rest proceeded from a fine inuention.

A Gamster after hee had bene oftentimes bitten by the Cheatoz, and after much losse grew very suspicious in his play, so that he would not suffer any of the sitters by to be pziuy to his game: for this the Cheatoz deuised a new shift, that a woman should sitte close by him, and by the swift and slow drawing of her needle, giue a token to the Cheatoz what was the Cosen's game: So that a few examples in steed of many that might be rehearsed, this one conclusion may bee gathered, that who so euer is giuen to play, and once sitteth downe amongst them, it is great odds but that he shall rise a loser. But many there be that liue so continently, that nothing can perswade them to put a peny in aduenture,
and

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and some againe be so vnskillfull, that lacke of cunning
fozceeth them to fozebeare play: but yet hardly it is for a
nie man to fall into their companie, but they wil make
him stoupe at one game or other: And for this purpose
their first trauaile is, after they haue taken vp the Co-
sen and made him somewhat to yeld, then they seeke by
all meanes possible to vnderstand his nature, & where-
vnto he is most inclined: If they finde that hee taketh
pleasure in the company of women, then seeke they to
strike him at the sacking law, and take this alwaies
for a rule, that all the Baudes in the countrey, bee of the
Cheatores familiar acquaintance, therefore it is not ve-
rie hard for them at all times to prouide for their amo-
rous Cussen, a ieuw lecherous Lady to keepe him lo-
uing company: then fall they to banquetting and carou-
sing and hunting of Tauerne, and much is the cost that
the silly Cussen shall bee at in Jewels and apparrell, or
therwise he shall not once get a grant to haue a licke at
this dainty Ladies lips, and euer in the middle of their
conference shee layeth in this reason, for her sake to put
in his twenty or forty Crownes in aduventure at Dice.
You know not (quoth shee) what may bee a womans
lucke, if he refuse it: Lord how vnkindly shee takes the
matter, & cannot be reconciled with lesse than a gowne,
or a kertle of silke, which commonly is rewarded vnto
her with a snap of the case.

But now if happely these Cheatores perceine that he
esteemeth not brused ware, but is enamored with Ver-
ginie, they haue a fine cast within an houres warning
to make Ione Siluerpin as good a maide, as if shee had
neuer come at Stews.

But let that passe for offending of chaste eares, whose
displeasure I would not incurre for all the Cheates the
Dycers get in a whole yeare: But to our purpose, I
will discourse certaine deceitfull tricks commonly vsed

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at Fayers & markets in the Country, and many times in the high wates by fine conceited companions, whose wits be worth a hundred pound a yeare.

To colour theyr knaueries vnder the winges of deceit, first they will attire themselves in base and simple apparell, like to one that had purchast an Acre of ground vpon Sufers hill and liue by the taking Trade; when indeed they haue in London a hundred or two of pounds alwaies at command.

But now being apparellled in this meane attire, they will haue a peece of very fine Lawne or Holland cloath bound vp very handsomly, worth some five or six pound in money, and another after the same manner and hignes, outwardly seeming to be the very same, but within stuffed with nothing but old ragges and such trash. Both which bundles the Cheatores wil carry about them, and when they can conueniently meete either man or woman alone, whom they thinke to be somewhat simple & hath some store of Crowns about them, they will come after an odde manner as though they had got some booty by stealth, gazing very fearefully about, and now and then starting and looking behinde them as though they were pursued: and in this sort comming to the simple Country man and calling him aside behind some bush or other, there proffereth he his Lawne to sell, and with all holds it secretly vnder his Cloak or Wat, saying that for neede of money hee would willingly sell it for halfe the worth.

The poore betrayed simple Country man thinking him to be some notable Dagger, and that hee had got it with due and a reach, and being conetous of a good perry worth, presently bargaines with him, and giues him all the monie in his purse, which is not aboue some forty or fiftie shillings, thinking therby to haue a commodity, worth twenty Nobles.

The

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The Cheatoz receaiving the money neuer stands to tell it but pockets it vp, and bobs the poze man with the counterfet bundle of raggs, and reserves the other bundle still to himselfe.

The poze Cosen thinks that he hath gotten the bundle of Lawne, and in all hast trudgeth away neuer looking behind him, untill he comes home, where hee hath time enough to repent his rashnes: And the Chetoz hee hies to his Anne, where presently he disguises himselfe changeeth his Cloake and Hat and goeth about another feate which is after this manner or such like: Perchance he hath a very bzaue Sworde to see to, ingrauen most curiously with siluer and gilt Damasked, in the w^olfe seeming to be woorth thirty or forty shillings, when in deede it is nothing but a crackt blade peered together, & the cracke couered ouer with a little counterfet gilt.

With this Sworde the Cheatoz gets him out of the Fayer or market some quarter of a mile, and layes the Sword directly in the high way, and goeth some stons cast from it, and there stands untill he see some passenger coming, before whome hee takes by the Sworde as though hee founde it, and then makes himselfe as though hee were drunke or foolish: Weeing in that humor the passenger will be desirous to buy it, and so proffers him some couple of Angels for the Sworde, thinking it sufficient to please a Drunkard or a foole. The Cheatoz hauing his Art at his fingers ends, bargens & gets him away with the couple of Angels, and leaues an old rusty crackt blade new srowde behinde him not woorth ten groats.

This Cosenage is vsed like wise in selling olde Hats found vpon dunghils in stee of new, blackt ouer with the smooke of an olde Linke. Many other deceits I could discouer as the procuring of the common people in a market to gaze at a man vpon the top of a Church steeple,

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steple, the which a nimble fellow will undertake to climbe, whilst two or three light fingered Figgers may snappe away their purses, and make them pay deere for their sight.

To speake truth, there is no Fayer throughout Eng- land but there are Monsters to bee seene in one place or other, which is nothing else but mere cosenages: As for example, I knew one that tooke a yong Lambe from the Cwe, and set a small horne a litle aboue the nose- thills, by raysing of the skinne, which in a short time grew downe againe very close, and the horne seemed to grow on the Lambes nozethill by nature. These and many other like Cosenages for bzeuties sake I passe ouer.

But nowe when all other deuises faile, then other shifts they haue to raise their thrust vpon, but most commonly these that follow: If it bee winter season when masking is most in vse, and missing of their cheaper helpes, they spare not for cost of the dearer.

Therefore doe they first hire in one place or other a sute of right masking apparell and after inuities diuers guests to a supper, all such as either be of estimation, to giue them credit by their acquaintance or such as they thinke will be liberall to haard some few Crownes in a mumchance, by which means they assure themselves, at the least to haue their supper scot free, perchance to win twenty pound or aboue.

An other cunning shift they haue, that for the subtil inuention and finenesse of wit, exceedeth farre all the rest which is called the Barnards Law. and to practise it exactly, requireth foure persons at the least, each of the to haue a long seuerall part by himselfe: The first is the taker vp, a skilfull man in all thinges, who hath by long labour learned without booke a hundred reasons to insinuate himselfe into a mans acquaintance: talke of matters

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matters of Law, and he hath plentie of cases at his fingers ends, which he hath seene tried in euery one of her Maiesties Courts: Speake of grasing and husbandry, no man knoweth more shieres than he, nor where better to raise a gaine, and how the abuses & prices of corne might be redressed.

Finally, enter into what discourse of things you wil, were it a Wome mans facultie, hee knoweth what gaine they haue for old bootes & shoes, and from whence their gaine cometh, yea, and it shall escape him hard, but before your talke breake off, he will be your Country man at the least, and peraduenture either of your kin or els a towne bozne childe, if your reach surmount not his, too farre.

But if in case he bring to passe that yee be glad of his acquaintance, & content with his company, then played is the chiefest of his part, and then he giueth the place to the principall player the Barnard, neuerthelesse hee lightly hath in his company a man of more worshop than himselfe, that hath the countenance of one that posseseth Lands, and he is called the Merier, and though it be a very hard thing to be a taker vp, as it were a man vniuersally practised in all accidents of a mans life, yet doth the Barnard goe far beyond him in cunning, as doth the sunnes summer brightnes exceed the glimmering light of the winter stars: his common practise is to come stumbling into your company, like some rich farmer of the countrie, a stranger to you all, that had bene at some market towne thereabouts, and there tippled so much Malisie, that he hath not a readie word in his mouth, & is so careles for his money, that out he throweth a dosen or two of Angels vpon the bordes end, and standing some what aloof off calleth for a pot of Ale & saith in a counterfet manner.

Passers, I am some what held with you, I pray you

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be not angry with mee, in that I drinke my drinke by you, and uttereth a great deale of other drunken talke, that the Tiersoz who counterfeteth himselfe to bee the Gentleman, cometh stoutly and sits at your elhowe, praying you to call him nere that hee might make you to laugh at his folly.

Betweene them two the matter shall bee so woorkemanly handled, and so finely conuayed, that out cometh a payre of old Cardes, whereat the Barnard teacheth the Tiersoz a new game, that he supposeth cost him two pots of Ale for the learning of it not past an hower or two before: Then to it they goe, and the first wager is drinke, the next two pence or a great: And lastly to make the tale short, they vse the matter so, that some of the standers by (yea though they haue sore reore peares on their backs, and neuer played for a great in all their liues) cannot refuse to be the Tiersozs halfe, & consequently at one cutting of the Cardes loose all they play for be it twenty pound: and if perhaps when the money is lost, the Cosen begins to fret and sweare that the drunken knaue shall not get his money so, then standeth the Robber at the doore (being the length of this Consort of Cheators) and draweth his Sworde & picketh a quarrell with his owne shadowe: Then whilst the streete and company gather to the fray (as the manner is) the Barnard steales secretly away, and gets to one blind Hauerne or other (such as before was appointed amongst them) and there abideth the coming of his companions, to make an equall portion of their game.

But when soeuer these shifts puenayle not, nor take no effect, then lead they the Cosen to see a Play, or to the Beare garden to see the Beares baighted, or to some other place of thyring, whereby some fine fingered figge Boy (a grounded scholler of I. E. his bringing up) his purse

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purse shall bee pickt and his money lost in a moment: But if this faile, they run to the last conclusion, and by a knot of lusty companions of the high Lawe, not onely shake the harnelesse body out of his cloathes, but also binde him, and leaue him fleeced as bare as a newe shorne sheepe, and perchance so farre from his friends, that he shall be forced to trip on his tentoes homeward for lacke of a Hackney to ride on, and begge for his charges by the way.

To speake truth this is a very ready way to thriфт: but the successe is dangerous many times, for some of them come home by Saint Thomas of wateringes and Tiburne, and so dye valiantly betwene heauen & earth: But yet nothing so soone as many men suppose they do, for they be but petty foggers, and unskillfull lads without learning, that haue such readie passage to the gallows.

The old thēues goe through with their busines well twenty or thirty yeares together, and be seldome taken or tainted, especially the stige Boyes, that haue a goodly copozation for their releefe. Their craft of all other requireth most sight and cunning, and hath a straunge language: therefore no man can attaine to be a worke man thereat, till hee hath had a good time of schooling and by that meanes they doe not only knowe one another well, but they be subiect all to one order, such as the Elders shall perscribe: not one of them dare be so bolde as to practise his feat but in the place appointed, nor once presume to put his foot in anothers walke.

Some certaine number of them hath Pauls church in charge, others hath Westminster Hall in Learne time, diuers Cheape side with the flesh & fish markets, some the Burrough in Southwarke, and the Beare garden, and others the Play-houses for their walkes, likewise some the Court, and some follow Fayers and
Bar.

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Sparkes in the Countreies with Deblers sorte packes, and generally to all places of assembly : some of them are certainly pointed as it were by the Wardens to keepe their haunt with commission but for a thort while and then to enterchange their places as order shall bee made to auoyd suspition.

By occasion whereof, whensoever any stroake is workemanlike stricken, yea though it were at Worke, or newe Castle, yet can the rest of the Ffigge Boyes here resident at London, tell by whom this worthy feat was wrought, and one great prouision they haue, that is a soueraigne salue at all times of neede, and that is as followeth.

A Treasurer they chosse in some blind corner a trusty secret friend, that whensoever there cometh any Jewels, Plate, or treasure to their share, that the present sale thereof might chaunce to discouer the matter, the same is committed into his handes in palone as it were of money lent, and he taketh a Bill of sale in default of repayment, as if all things were done in good order and plaine dealing: So that whensoever he shall seeke to make money of his palones, at the end of two or thre months, if any question arise how he came by them, hee sheweth presently a faire Bill of sale for his discharge, made from Iohn a Noke or Iohn a Style, a man that neuer was, nor neuer shall be found, and such theft by this occasion is often secretly couered.

Another helpe they haue, that of euery purse that is cleanly conuayed, a ratable portion is duely deliuered into the Treasurers handes, to the vse that whensoever by some misaduenture any of them happen to be taken and laid in prison, this common stocke may serue to satisfie the party griued, thereby to saue them from the Gallows.

Thus haue you here a Kalender as it were, to put you in remembrance of some of the chiefe points and practises

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practises of Cheating, which may serue for a warning whereby you may take hede of such companies: wherein if my experience may serue to giue you occasion to escheue such evils, I shall be right ioyfull: And beare but these discourses in memozy, and if you liue a hundred yeares you shall not lightly fall into the Cheators snares, but because I haue laide open the principall points, and there are yet some small sparks remayning vntouched which I will briezly discouer and then an ende.

The feate of loosing is easily learned, and as I tolde you in the beginning, that the Cheators beate and busie their bzaines onely about fraude and deceit, so cannot it bee chosen but those that giue themselves ouer to that kinde of life, must euery day forge out a newe point of knauery to deceaue the simple withall, or els their facultie falls to decay, as for example.

Of late I knew a yong Gentleman, so wary in his doings, that neyther by Dyce nor Cardes, nor by dalliance of women, nor any of the waies before rehearsed, could be made to deliuer one penny out of his purse, about this a Cheator consulted with a lawd Damosell & this deuice they contriued, that shee should dally with the Gentleman, and playing with his Chaine, should find the meane to keepe it a while, till they might figge a lincke or two to make the like by. Done it was most cunningly, and within few dayes after another made of copper equall to that in length, bignes and waight: So at the Gentlemans next returning to the house, the Damosell dallied so long with the Chaine, sometimes putting it about her necke and sometimes about his, that in the ende shee foysed the copper Chaine in the others place, and thereby robbed him of better than forty pounds.

This and the like shiftes I forbear to remember,
C the

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the rather because the deceit resteth not in any slight practise at Dice and Cards: Neuertheles because Cheators were the first inuentors as well of this as of all other fallshodes in fellowships that nowe daily is put in vse at all games, as when one man lost not many yerres agoe a hundred pound land at shooting by reason of some that shotte with him were bootie fellowes against him. Another was ridd of fife hundred pound land at Tennis in one weeke by the fraud of his stopper.

And to conclude, there is no game though it be neuer so laudable, yet is it abused by Cheating companions: And since Cheators were the first Authoys thereof, let them beare the blame, and God grant they may quickly amend oꝝ speedily end.

Finis Mihil Mumchance.



